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## NURSING IN MISSION STATIONS



IN September, 1906, St. Luke's Hospital, Shanghai, China, completed its fortieth year of service. Accurate records have not been kept during all these years, but estimating from recent reports it seems probable that over half a million Chinese and others have been treated there. The staff at present consists of four doctors and a nurse, Miss Bender, who describes the hospital thus:

"I believe this hospital would be a great surprise to many people at home, if they could see it. It certainly was so to me. The building itself is a really fine one, with large airy wards, quite like the ones we have at home. The Chapel is in extremely good taste, plain and neat with some very attractive pictures of our Lord's parables done by a Chinese artist. The operating room is equal to any we have at home, while the sun-room is absolutely all one could wish for. There are birds, fishes, flowers, a monkey, and many other things which furnish amusement for convalescent patients. That which delights my soul the most is the two poles on which the stars and stripes and the Chinese dragon flag are hung on festal occasions. Of course the nursing is not all one would like to have it, but it is wonderfully good for China, and, some day, by God's grace and the help of good friends at home we are going to have it really good."

Dr. W. H. Jefferys, in one of the annual reports of the hospital, gives some interesting facts in regard to the native ideas of the treatment of disease in China from which we quote.

"My assistant, at my behest, went once last winter to consult a native practitioner for a severe cough and allowed himself to be prescribed for. Here is the actual prescription on paper. It gives the patient's name, then the diagnosis of the trouble. This is followed by a statement of the condition of the pulses on which the diagnosis was made. Finally it calls for the thirteen drugs which I put into thirteen foreign bottles, partly for convenience, but chiefly in order that I might live in the same house with them, and other Chinese drugs. They should each be wrapped in a separate white paper and then all together in a red sheet. The thirteen drugs are as follows:

" Baked barley,	Chalk,
Sugar,	Melon seeds,
Mashed beans,	Mashed and fermented
Bamboo shavings,	melon seeds,
A root,	A mashed pebble,
Another root,	Some wild flowers,
Still another root,	A broken clam shell.

" The prescription calls for the boiling together of these ingredients in a large quantity of water and for the whole to be taken rapidly at one dose. That for a cough! It does seem as if the doctor must have hit the mark somehow, with so many shot in his gun.

" Other drugs in common use are cockroaches, fossils, rhinoceros skin, shavings, silk worms, crude calomel, human secretions, rhubarb, asbestos, moths, oyster shells, maggots, centipedes, caterpillars, toads, lizzards, and cicada shells. Just why cicada shells should be the great nervous sedative of China it is not easy to see. In most of their animal drugs the Chinese are strictly homeopathic in aim, barring dosage, as when they give tigers' bones as a tonic in debility, because the tiger is such a strong animal; but this cicada business seems to work on strictly allopathic lines.

" As Dr. Williams says, 'anything indeed that is thoroughly disgusting in the three kingdoms of nature, is considered good for medicinal use,' and the worst of it all is, they do not just take medicine as we do, they literally and truly 'eat' it, so large is the size of the average dose. The word for this function in China is *Chuh*, to eat. I have a Chinese pill, a tonic for the weak, and it measures an inch across and weighs half an ounce. Here are smaller ones for bronchitis. The dose is about one hundred and fifty pills. Here is the dragon-festival powder, of which the average dose is two tablespoonfuls to a man, at the feast, to keep off evil spirits, which is of course considered a distinct disease by the Chinese. Such is the internal medicine of China.

" Chinese hygiene is almost unspeakable. It is said that one smells China a hundred miles out to sea. A fellow missionary used to send outside of the city gate of Wusih every day to get his drinking water where it was supposed to be a bit less terrible than near his house, the natural place for a native to take it from. I happened one morning to be passing through the gate and took a photograph of the crystal stream. There was a huge dead dog in the centre of the picture. Now, my friend probably gets his water from some other spot, but it is a matter of mere sentiment after all, for, aside from the idea involved, it is not probable that he has improved his condition a whit. If it is not dog, it is something worse. The facts that the nation lives out of



MISS BENDER IN THE WOMAN'S DISPENSARY

doors, that it does not drink milk at all and never drinks cold water, are probably responsible for its being 'still about.'

"Surgery, or external medicine, is represented by several procedures, operative and otherwise. Such a poultice as half a raw chicken is common, and nearly every patient that comes to us has one of the large gummy opium plasters on some carefully selected spot. These latter have probably the suggestion of therapeutic value. A set of surgical knives are never used to cut, but merely to dig and gouge. Practically they are chiropody instruments. Why do they not cut with them? Simply because they cannot control hemorrhage. Our patients do not, except when they come directly from some foreign *hong*, show that they have even the knowledge of the stick and handkerchief tourniquet. They usually stuff the wound with tobacco, earth, or a filthy rag. If a member is all but removed by accident, the Chinese have been known to assist mildly in severing the last link.

"The surgical instrument best known to the Chinese is the deadly acupuncture needle, and I say deadly with the full weight of the word. It is used to produce counterirritation, and there are one hundred spots known to the surgeon into which it may be stuck without resulting in immediate death. The muscles are the favorite choice, but I have seen the result of these filthy needles having been passed into hernial sacs, and I have had two patients come to us for treatment for general infection of the eye which was caused by these needles having been passed clean (or rather dirty) through the eyeball in the treatment of trachoma. It is needless to say there resulted all that could be desired in the way of a handsome counterirritation and that the total loss of the eye in each case was the end thereof. For this, however, the Chinese surgeon did not take the blame, because the patient could still see a little two days after the operation. Abscesses are treated by the needles, but if, by any chance, anything threatens to leak out of the abscess through the puncture hole, the surgeon immediately slaps on a large plaster to stick it up tight."

Miss Bender is still largely occupied in learning the language, but she has almost entire charge in the woman's out-patient department, and is encouraged by the fact that the attendance is increasing. "On two special afternoons I dressed, with the help of a native worker, forty patients. To have any knowledge of what a dressing really can mean, one must work in China. I have had babies when literally every inch was bandaged with the exception of eyes, nose and mouth.

"If we had at least six well-trained nurses from home, one in charge of each ward, we might be able to do great things, but of course that is out of the question and we mean to do great things without the

nurses and to bear in mind that not *failure* but *low aim* is crime, and what is better yet that, 'through *God* we *will* do great acts.'

#### ITEMS

*Spirit of Missions* announces the appointment of Miss Anna I. Henry, of Topeka, Kansas, as missionary nurse to the Philippines.

*The Quarterly* of the Illinois State Association states that Miss May Elsey, a graduate of the Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago, class of 1907, has been appointed by the Presbyterian Board of Missions as head nurse of a hospital in Persia and that she will sail in the fall to take up the work.

*The British Journal of Nursing* for July 25 gives an account of the recent graduation of three native nurses, the first pupils of the American Training School, at Beirut, Syria. They were trained by Miss Jane E. VanZandt, a graduate of the New York Post-Graduate Hospital, assisted by the missionary medical men, Drs. Post and Moore. The nurses are Armenians, and they have a three years' course with both theoretical and practical instruction. There are six pupils in the school.

A NURSE is needed for Korea at once, for the station at Tai Ku. One of the workers at the station describes the situation thus: "The salary is, of course, not munificent, being \$625 or \$750 a year, but the opportunity for doing good service to a needy people is a splendid one. Her work would be the care of the missionary families and to be house-keeper and trainer of native nurses in the hospital, which is a modern one, and Dr. Johnson is a delightful man to work with. There are seven families at Tai Ku, which is on the railroad from Fusan to Seoul." Inquiries should be addressed to Dr. A. J. Brown, Presbyterian Board of Missions, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.



GUARDING EYE-DROPS.—The *American Journal of Surgery* says: In prescribing eye-drops, order a dropper to be placed in the bottle in place of a cork, as a stopper. It will always be at hand and always clean, and the solution will not be contaminated.

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HE gains the prize who can the most endure, who faces issues, he who never shirks, who waits and watches and who always works. (Selected.)